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International Perspectives on Hospice and Palliative Care for HIV/AIDS

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Hospice and palliative care is an essential component of the continuum of care for people living with HIV/AIDS. There is considerable symptom burden associated with HIV/AIDS throughout the course of the illness and palliative care is valuable both in optimizing functioning as well as at the end of life. In this presentation we will explore the extent of the need for palliative care in HIV/AIDS, the problems that are responsive to palliative care, the range of available palliative interventions, and how palliative care can be incorporated into ongoing anti-retroviral therapies. We will examine the differences between supportive and palliative care as well as the public health implications for palliative care. Where ever possible palliative care must not be a substitute for active disease therapy. Appropriate palliative care as defined by WHO, must include impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other symptoms using an interdisciplinary team skilled in addressing all the dimensions of the human experience for PLWHVA's and those who care for them.

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56.002

Clinical Issues in Palliative Care for HIV/AIDS

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Over the past 40 years, palliative care has made inroads in healthcare services. Although it has its roots in the care of the dying and advanced cancer, it is slowly making an impact in the struggle against HIV/AIDS.

Clinical issues in dealing with HIV/AIDs needs to be considered along with the psychosocial, cultural, ethical and specific nature of the HIV/AIDS illness. The myriad of symptoms that may present in a patient needs to be individualised and take into account the resources available, the desired outcomes and whether the patient is in a hospital or community setting. The aim is to minimise the symptom load to improve the quality of life but palliative care services need to be tailored to the fluctuations of the disease as well as consider the possible reversibility of associated conditions.

In the setting of providing palliative care for HIV/AIDS in developing countries, much of the suffering of such patients could be addressed by integrating palliative care into the disease management programme of current service provision. Palliative Care complements the other medical treatments and with a holistic approach could assist those with controlled illness but also with those with advanced and dying of the illness.

doi:[10.1016/j.ijid.2008.05.135](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2008.05.135)**Successful Development in Hospice and Palliative Care in Asia**

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Hospice and Palliative Care services in Asia developed in the more economically developed countries in the 1980s. Countries like Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore have relatively well developed palliative care services. In the 1990s services started developing in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, and good progress has been made in various centres in these countries, though overall coverage still needs to be improved. The Asia Pacific Hospice Palliative Care Network is a regional network of individuals and organizations which act as a resource for palliative care. Faculty from established palliative care services travel to resource-poor countries to help train trainers at the invitation of local organizations. One such project is in Vietnam where a 3-year Training of Trainers project organized by the Singapore International Foundation provided training in two palliative care units in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi in Vietnam. Together with simultaneous efforts by the Vietnam-CDC-Harvard group to provide a National Palliative Care Program for Vietnam, palliative care services for both cancer and HIV patients have been developed, and Vietnam is in the process of establishing its own National Association for Palliative Care. A further example of palliative care development in Thailand will also be presented.

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56.004

National and International Measurement OpportunitiesD. Casarett^{1,*}, S. Connor²¹ *University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA*² *National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, Alexandria, VA, USA*

The growing field of hospice and palliative care has been promoted most effectively in industrialized countries, where it has focused primarily on chronic illnesses such as cancer. However, in underdeveloped countries, HIV/AIDS represents a major public health problem. Despite aggressive prevention efforts and growing access to antiretrovirals, HIV/AIDS remains a fatal disease for many people. Therefore, there is growing international interest in applying principles of hospice and palliative care to improve the care that patients with HIV/AIDS receive near the end of life.

This symposium will provide an overview of worldwide hospice and palliative care efforts in HIV/AIDS, identifying key opportunities and challenges. First, presenters will describe common palliative care needs in this population, including estimates of the prevalence of pain and other symptoms. Next, presenters will trace the growth and development of HIV/AIDS-focused efforts to provide hospice and palliative care in resource-poor settings. Finally, presenters